MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MARCH 1981

Iran

Khomeyni Address to Majlis Deputies--In a speech during a meeting with Majlis deputies at Hoseynieh Jamaran, a recording of which was broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni made a plea for unselfish action to save the country "at a time when all are our enemies." If each individual were to move in the same direction, he said, no differences could possibly arise. He added that if people could learn to overlook their own desires and work for God, no quarrels or disputes would occur, and he specifically mentioned those who have "influence among the masses" in this regard. Khomeyni concluded with a call for all to work and cooperate for the "Islamic nation" in the new year.

Rafsanjani Speech--During the Majlis deputies' meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani also made a speech, a recording of which was broadcast by Tehran radio. He stressed that the revolution's enemies have been trying to discredit and disrupt Iran's revolutionary organizations, headed by the Majlis. Anyone who has been responsible for recent tensions and clashes, "whether he be an igorant friend or a willful enemy," has been party to a "conspiracy," Rafsanjani added. These conspiracies have become more serious in recent weeks, he stressed, but Khomeyni's guidelines have "reaffirmed the gains" of the year and "caused despair" among the enemy. He went on to express hope that in the coming year shortcomings will be corrected and tension will be eliminated.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

According to Tehran radio, Iranian Navy and Air Force units blew up an Iraqi "warship" in the Persian Gulf, and exchanges of artillery fire continued on southern and western fronts. The radio also claimed that Iranian forces launched an attack in the Gilan-e Gharb region, killing a large number of Iraqis. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, claimed that Iraqi forces launched the attack, in which 35 Iranians were killed.

Israel

Jerusalem television reported that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres held a lengthy and "intimate" talk with King Hassan II in Morocco on 19 March and also conferred in London on 17 March with one of Jordanian King Husayn's brothers, whom the television did not name. According to the report, Peres told King Hassan that if the Israeli Alignment won power he would seek a speedy conclusion to the autonomy talks and try to coordinate with Saudi Arabia on finding a solution to the Jersualem problem. During his London talks, the report added, Peres "received the impression" that Jordan does not categorically reject the Jordanian option. According to the newspaper DAVAR, Peres told journalists on his return from Europe that he did not meet with "Arab personalities or other politicians in Europe." The Labor Party spokesman, the paper added, said the story of Peres' meeting with "Arab leaders" was "manipulated by the Likud," and he denied that Peres is conducting "negotiations with Arab political elements." According to the Moroccan news agency MAP, the Moroccan minister of information has issued a "categorical" denial of reports that King Hassan "is supposed to have met" with Peres "on Thursday in Marrakech."

Afghanistan

Afghan Foreign Ministry officials and security authorities held a press conference, reported by Kabul radio, in which they criticized Pakistan for making "false claims"

about the actions taken by the DRA while the recently hijacked Pakistani airliner was in Kabul. Asserting that it was in fact the Pakistani Government that "neglected its obligations" from the start, the officials pointed out that Pakistani authorities allowed people carrying weapons to board the plane and delayed solving the problem for almost 2 weeks. The Afghan authorities, on the other hand, fulfilled all their obligations to protect the lives of the hostages and obtained the release of the women and children.

Replying to the Pakistani accusation that DRA authorities adopted a "compromising" attitude toward the hijackers, the officials said that they made every effort to avoid provoking them. A BAKHTAR report on the press conference termed "ludicrous" the Pakistani claim that Afghanistan provided the hijackers with arms. The report added that the Pakistani Government made these claims against Afghanistan in order to achieve political gains and crush its domestic political opponents.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL CHAIRS 19 MAR REVOLUTION COUNCIL SESSION

LD192344 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] A session of the DRA Revolution Council was chaired by Prime Minister Babrak Karmal in the Revolution Council headquarters at 1500 today. The agenda of the Revolution Council, which was prepared by the Revolution Council Presidium, was unanimously approved at the beginning of the session.

In accordance with the agenda, Babrak Karmal reported on the activities of the DRA Revolution Council and Government during the second half of 1359 [21 March 1980-22 March 1981] The report was applauded and approved in its entirety by the Revolution Council members.

Babrak Karmal recalled that important international event, the 26th CPSU Congress, and the participation of the authorized Afghan delegation, and said: We stated a few facts from this reliable international platform about the DRA's revolutionary duties and the heroic struggle of our people against the dark forces of reaction and international imperialism, which have waged an undeclared war against us, interfering overtly in our domestic affairs and sending counterrevolutionary bands to Afghanistan from their (?territories).

Babrak Karmal, in referring to the international activity of the DRA Government, recalled the visit of the high-ranking Afghan Government and party delegation to the USSR and stated: The all-round support for the aims of the Sawr Revolution and the internationalist aid from the land of soviets for the Afghan people is indicative of the unshakable and fraternal friendship between the USSR and revolutionary Afghanistan. In these high-level discussions, the interest of the people of the Soviet Union and of the DRA in peaceful coexistence and in the resolute struggle against the sinister plans of U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and regional reaction were reiterated. Prime Minister Karmal, in an evaluation of the situation in the country in the second half of 1359, said: The principles of revolutionary legality were (?implemented) in all aspects of the government's activities and in all spheres of life. In the struggle against counterrevolution, reaction and imperialism, great victories have been achieved and a great number of those who were deceived by enemy propaganda and were acting against the government and the revolution realized their mistakes and laid down their arms. They have surrendered to the government security forces and have repented their actions. Thousands of our compatriots have returned to their free, independent and peace-loving country as a result of the general amnesty announcement.

Babrak Karmal, after evaluating the country's economic situation during the past year and the government's activities in this field, recalled and highlighted the decrees, laws and resolutions of the DRA Revolution Council and Government.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister of the DRA, then presented a report on the results of economic activity in 1359, on the development plan and on the ordinary and development budget for 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982]. The report was approved by the Revolution Council members.

Finally, Nezamoddin Tahzib, member of the PDPA Central Committee and Revolution Council and president of the DRA Supreme Court, presented a report concerning the draft of the new law on judicial organization and authority. This law, prepared by the Ministry of Justice and the DRA Supreme Court, was approved by the Revolution Council.

During the Revolution Council session, a number of members expressed their views of the reports and resolutely approved the activity of the Presidium of the DRA Revolution Council and the DRA Government. As a result of the reports and speeches of the Revolution Council members, the following drafts were submitted to the Revolution Council: the activity and work of the Presidium of the Revolution Council and the DRA Government; the results of the economic activity during the year 1359 and the development plan, and the ordinary and development budget for 1360; and the law of organization and authority of the DRA courts. These drafts were unanimously ratified by the Revolution Council.

KABUL NEWS CONFERENCE ON HIJACKING INCIDENT

LD192040 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Report on 19 March news conference in Kabul conducted by unidentified officials of the DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry and of the "security authorities"--questions and answers read by announcer]

[Text] The authorities in Islamabad and the lying machinery of Pakistan have set in motion unfounded and false claims against the DRA regarding the hijacking of the Pakistan International Airways [PIA] Boeing 720, in an effort to gain political advantage over the DRA and to crush political opponents of the militarist regime in Pakistan.

In order to expose the fabrications, deceptions and false nature of the Pakistani authorities' claims and in order to explain the reality of the matter, a press conference attended by domestic and foreign journalists was held today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr Haydar Masud, the deputy minister of public relations of the Ministry of Information and Culture, spoke briefly about the hijacking of the Pakistani airplane and about the Pakistani authorities' incorrect claims against the DRA. He asked the journalists to present their questions in a completely free and democratic atmosphere. The text of the statement of the relevant authorities concerning the rejection of the claims of the Pakistani Government's lying machinery concerning the hijacked PIA Boeing 720 was read by the deputy minister of public relations of the Ministry of Information and Culture. Domestic and foreign journalists then presented their questions freely to a representative of the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a representative of the security authorities, as follows:

Question: The reporter of HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR: In your opinion, what efforts were made by Pakistan in meeting its international obligations?

Answer: The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The Pakistani Government neglected its obligations from the beginning. The Pakistani Government allowed people possessing weapons to board the plane in Karachi. The Government of Pakistan delayed the solution of the problem for nearly 2 weeks. Consequently, the Pakistani Government (?could not find) any alternative but to release political prisoners. It would have been better if the Pakistani Government (?had done at the beginning what it did at the end).

Question: The BAKHTAR reporter: The Pakistani authorities claim that the Afghan authorities did not take a (?harsh stand) against the hijackers. What is your view on this issue?

Answer: There is no doubt that the DRA authorities (?decided) to ask the hijackers to deal humanely with the hostages; this position was a humanitarian gesture, to safeguard the lives of the hostages. As you know, this request was effective and led to the release of children, women and the ill on 4 March (?and a number of those) released returned to Pakistan. A number of others, who were released later, were delivered to their political (?representatives).

Question: A radio and television reporter: The Pakistani authorities have commented on Afghanistan's international obligations in resolving the problem. What is your view on this?

Answer: The Afghan authorities, in complete realization of their international obligations concerning this event, carried out all obligations to safeguard the lives of the passengers and to solve the problem [word indistinct]. The DRA fulfilled its humanitarian obligations. The release of women, children and the ill was the result of these efforts and of the cooperation of the Afghan authorities. Meeting the demands of the hijackers was not Afghanistan's responsibility; it was the (?duty) of the Pakistani Government, which, unfortunately, did nothing to secure the release of the hostages during the 6 days the plane was in Afghanistan. It has already been stated that the Government of Pakistan embarked on this unwise stand to achieve political gains against Afghanistan and to crush its political opponents inside Pakistan. Afghanistan fulfilled all of its international obligations up to the very last moment.

Question: The TASS correspondent in Kabul: The Pakistani authorities have said that the Afghan authorities adopted a compromising attitude toward the hijackers. What are your views, since you were responsible maintaining security on the plane?

Answer: The representative of the security authorities: There is no doubt that during their talks with the hijackers--which were carried out via the airport control tower's radio--the Afghan authorities were very careful and avoided expressing any kind of provocation against the hijackers. The aim of this care was to avoid angering and irritating the hijackers, causing them to embark on dangerous, aggressive actions. The result of this attitude was that only one person was killed. This death was caused by the lack of a timely and correct stand on the part of the Pakistani authorities; they did not satisfactorily answer the demands of the hijackers. There is one other reason, which the hijackers themselves must reveal.

Question: The HEYWAD reporter; What is the reason for the Pakistani Government's claim that the hijackers had covert links with the Afghan Government?

Answer: The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The reason for this Pakistani allegation is related primarily to the aggravated internal situation in that country. The militarist regime of Pakistan is facing opposition and encountering the broad masses of the people of that country. The hijacking caused Pakistani masses' opposition to reach a new stage. The Pakistani Government is trying to make use of every event to strengthen its unstable government apparatus. That is why they made this allegation and created such propaganda, claiming that there was a link and an understanding between the hijackers and those outside the plane and that this link was with the Afghan side.

Question: A Czechoslovak journalist: It has been said that the Pakistani authorities wanted to resort to force and wanted to ask Afghanistan's permission to send in a commando group.

Answer: The representative of the security authorities: We did not receive an official request from the Pakistani Government.

The DRA Government was firm in its belief, from the beginning to the end, that the problem should be resolved peacefully with the cooperation of all parties concerned and that such a measure, which would have endangered the lives of the passengers and would have led to the destruction of the plane, should be avoided. The result is that in Afghanistan and in the brother country of Syria, the longest hijacking in history was concluded with the minimum loss.

At the end of the press conference, Dr Haydar Masud, the deputy minister of public relations of the Ministry of Information and Culture, asked the journalists to present the facts to the world concerning the hijacked Pakistani plane.

BAKHTAR DISCLAIMS PAKISTANI ALLEGATIONS ON HIJACKING

LD200712 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Kabul, 19 Mar (BAKHTAR)--In relation to the hijacked Pakistani Boeing 720, the Islamabad authorities and their propaganda machine have made false allegations against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan aimed at making a political capital out of the situation. To expose the nature of the malicious claims and allegations of the Islamabad authorities a press conference was held with the local and foreign journalists at the Ministry of Foreign affairs here today. Press attaches and representatives of political mission of foreign countries in Kabul were also present.

In addition to answers given to the questions raised by journalists the following explanation was given concerning the rejection of the unfounded allegations of the Government of Pakistan in relation to the hijacked Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 720. Very recently [words indistinct] furiously launched baseless allegations in relation to a Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 720 hijacked on 2 March 1981 and made an emergency landing in the Kabul International Airport.

The Pakistani authorities on the other hand try their utmost to take maximum advantage of this critical juncture to quash the entire movements for restoration of democracy and elimination of despotism and tyranny waged by the military administration of Islamabad.

By adopting this fraudulent and frivolous attitude, Pakistani officials not only distort facts and events but also divert the attention of the Pakistani public opinion from the menacing and queasy developments inside the country.

In the incident of the Pakistani hijacked aircraft the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in consonance with its international pledges and on the basis of humanitarian feelings, taking into account the fraternal relations with the people of Pakistan regardless of political issues with the Islamabad government, has from the very outset rendered adequate service with a view to exploring a peaceful solution of the problem as well as the salvation of the hostages with the Pakistani authorities. But owing to the unreasonable and provocative conduct of Islamabad, coupled with its political manipulation and inadvertance, the 13-day tragedy was protracted, which is considered to be the longest in the history of hijacking.

The world public knew that when the Pakistani plane was hijacked General Ziaul was out of the country and the Pakistani authorities were reluctant to take any decision in this respect in the absence of the military administrator.

Even when General Ziaul returned home no positive step was taken for the solution of the impasse; on the contrary, using the opportunity Ziaul launched a widespread campaign to suppress and incarcerate hundreds of his political opponents and deliberately postponed an early solution of the matter. The authorities of Islamabad ignored the written messages of more than one hundred hostages addressed to Pakistani official sources for their deliverance, who had also requested a speedy response from the Pakistani officials concerned regarding the demands of the hijackers, and applied dilatory tactics to put off responding to them. This attitude of Pakistani sources brought about further aggravation of the dilemma and the situation became more complex. Similarly, the hijackers several times had warned the Pakistani delegation directly via the airport control tower that the Pakistani authorities had purposely delayed a reply to their demands. Moreover, one of the hijackers had warned that if the Pakistani Government postponed the answer to their demands they will no longer hesitate to perform the inevitable.

But instead, the authorities of Islamabad, by having irresponsible and adventuristic remarks, further complicated the issue. In fact, it was the expressions of the Pakistani military administrator (?that) provoked the hijackers as a result of which a turbid atmosphere was created which culminated in the tragic death of Tariq Rahim, one of the hostages. Thus the Pakistani authorities proved to be directly responsible.

This ruthless and irresponsible action of the Pakistani authorities instigated the wrath, strong resentment and bitter hatred of the hostages and as a result all the passengers of the airplane unanimously embarked on writing and dispatching separate messages condemning the reluctance and treatment of the Government of Pakistan to find a solution for the issue. The photocopies of messages have officially been handed over to the Embassy of Pakistan through the Afghan authorities, but the stand of the Afghan side in relation to this impasse ought to be noted.

The Government of Afghanistan, right from the beginning of the hijacking incident, adopted a series of effective measures to save the lives of passengers and to find a peaceful settlement of the matter. It was due to the repeated requests of the Afghan authorities that a number of the psychologically crashed [as received] and ailing women and children were released and on top of that necessary facilities for medical treatment and comfort of the released hostages and their safe return to Pakistan were provided by the Afghan respective authorities.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, immediately after his arrival from the USSR in a message requested the hijackers to observe patience and tolerance and to refrain from resorting to violence, as a result of which the deadline for the demands of the hijackers was extended to 24 more hours.

Dr Anahita Ratebzad, president of the Democratic Womens Organisation of Afghanistan, president of the Peace and Solidarity Committee of Afghanistan, personally requested the hijackers to release the remainder of women hostages, which was also granted.

The foreign minister of the DRA, in a message, withdrew [as received] the urgent attention of the UN secretary general towards the seriousness and gravity of the situation and requested his interference in the solution of the deadlock.

A 24-hour respite plus the extension of the deadline with the assistance of ambassadors and heads of the diplomatic missions of the Islamic countries in Kabul and their cooperation in solving this occurrence which had been requested by the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs was achieved.

Now we can see that the Islamabad authorities, despite all these humanitarian measures adopted and good will shown by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, fabricated sundry groundless and frivolous allegations.

The Islamabad authorities cunningly claim that the Afghan authorities have accorded formal reception to the hijackers, but we unequivocally indicate that our moral assistance and facilities were not, in any way, meant for the hijackers, whereas we did our utmost to free the hostages or at least save them from inevitable annihilation. We did this because we share sentiments of amity and fraternity based on our tradition and feeling of humanism. We do not only comply with the Pakistani attitude in this regard but also we rendered them humanitarian aid to save their innocent lives. Our assistance included solely provisions of doctor, food, medicines, blankets and potable water through the personnel of Ariana Afghan Airlines, which constituted their main requirements, and it seems a bit surprising to note that our humanitarian emergency aid for the life of hostages has become a matter of concern for the Pakistani authorities.

Similarly the falsifying mass media of Islamabad allege that the Afghan authorities have not rendered needed cooperation to the Pakistani delegation, but the protocol of talks and documents signed between the Afghan and Pakistani delegations is virtually bearing witness to the fact that the Afghan Government has rendered all possible assistance in the solution of the issue and the Pakistani delegation has clearly expressed its thanks for the Afghan sincere cooperation. This by itself is a demonstrative reason to describe the Pakistani claims as unfounded and baseless. The Islamabad authorities claim as if the Afghan Government had not granted permission to the Pakistani delegation to conduct face-to-face dialogue with hijackers. It should (?be noted) that in accordance with valid documents on hand the Pakistani delegation did not only raise this question but the Afghan authorities, too, had no face-to-face contact whatsoever with the hijackers.

Based on the verified available documents and recorded tapes of dialogues, the Afghan authorities have placed the entire possibilities at the disposal of Pakistani delegation to smooth out its contact from the airport's tower with the hijackers.

The most ludicrous portion of the Pakistani Government's remarks is its claim that the Government of Afghanistan has provided arms to the hijackers. We do not really understand whom the Pakistani Government wants to deceive with such meaningless and unfounded allegations, but one fact exists, that the Islamabad authorities launch efforts to achieve its political goals, to mislead public opinion in Pakistan from its demagogic and anti-popular policy and to confuse public opinion of the world with respect to this event.

If the hijackers did not possess sufficient weapons, how could they manage to subjugate 148 passengers of the plane plus its crew and hijack it?

According to an American passenger the functionaries of Karachi airport had failed to search thoroughly the people while boarding the said plane, or maybe, necessary precautions were not taken. A special report of the Voice of America, in this connection, says those employees of the state organizations of Pakistan who have neglected their duties in relation to this particular issue will be chastised exceptionally. The expression is another reason for the lack of dutifulness of the respective personnel and employees of the airport that culminated in the hijack of the airplane.

The governmental authorities of Pakistan, in conformity with the international civil aviation regulations, had the obligation to take required security measures to ensure the immunity of passengers' lives. The aforementioned authorities have indubitably overlooked the regulation of international civil aviation by failing to check the admission of armed hijackers who were said to have also carried explosives with them on board. On the other hand a pro-government daily of Pakistan entitled "JESARAT", in its issue of 8 March 1981, touching on the matter has written, "A short while prior to take-off from Karachi airport a patient was taken into the aircraft by means of a stretcher, whereas there was no mention of the nature and seriousness of his ailment. It is possible that armaments and hand grenades might have been taken on board."

The hijackers from the very beginning had warned that they were armed with automatic light weapons, hand grenades and pistols, while this claim of hijackers has also been confirmed by the released passengers and some others on board. We deem it proper to mention that the Afghan authorities have hitherto no particular information concerning the nature and quantity of the hijackers' weapons, but the aforesaid daily newspaper knows the kind of arms they carried as well as it also revealed the trick and manner of its transference inside the plane. This question must be asked, why the Islamabad authorities in the whole length of the aircraft's sojourn in Kabul airport did not take any practical step towards the release of the hostages and solution of the [word indistinct] and created all sorts of obstacles and snags to delay the riddance of the passengers and the plane, but when the aircraft left Afghanistan and the level of hijackers' demands had also escalated the Pakistani authorities yielded to their demands.

This question is now asked in Pakistan, why the Government of Pakistan did not take any step towards the settlement of the issue when the lives of the hostages and the crew were endangered. The Pakistani side expeditiously took the initiative when the hijackers intimidated to assassinate three American hostages on board whom the hijackers described to be agents of CIA and responded to their demands favourably.

The main purpose behind all these cooked-up allegations made by the authorities of Islamabad is nothing more than political exploitation and suppressing the opponents of the military government of that country. This matter is so clear that even the DAILY TELEGRAPH, the extreme rightwing publicity organ of Britain, which undoubtedly offers backing and support to General Ziaul's regime, in its issue of 16 March 1981 carries a commentary on the hijacking incident and writes: General Ziaul Haq takes advantage of this opportunity in order to quell the opponents of his military government. According to international news agencies, the movement for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan has referred to the hijacking event saying that the military government of General Ziaul misuses the opporunity for his salvation from the existing crisis.

In a statement the movement had added that the military government of Pakistan was attempting to provoke the hijackers to take drastic and violent measures so that General Ziaul could find a solid base to further quash his political adversaries.

RAO: U.S. EMBASSY CLARIFIES NEWS CONFERENCE INCIDENT

BK200931 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told the Lok Sabha today that according to the American Embassy, no discrimination was involved in not allowing Indian journalists at a reported press conference held in the embassy premises regarding the recent hijacking of a Pakistani plane. He was replying to a calling-attention motion moved by Ramsaroop Taam, Congress-I, and others. Rao said, in view of the clarification, there is no need to pursue the matter further.

GANDHI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM ZIAUL HAQ ON HIJACKING

BK191630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan has conveyed his warm thanks to Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi for her efforts to secure the release of the passengers, crew and the aircraft involved in the recent hijacking.

In a personal message to Mrs Gandhi, he said her support has sustained them during the difficult period of the unfortunate episode. The ALL INDIA radio correspondent recalls that on receipt of a message from the Pakistan president during the height of a hijacking crisis, the Indian Foreign Ministry called in the envoys from Afghanistan and Syria and pressed upon them the need to do everything possible to safeguard the passengers and to ensure that the plane is not destroyed. The Indian ambassadors in Kabul and Damascus also made similar approaches to the Afghan and Syrian Governments.

In her reply to the Pakistan president, Mrs Gandhi shared his concern and assured him that she would do everything possible to help defuse the crisis. Meanwhile, the Indian ambassador in Islamabad, now in New Delhi for consultation, apprised Mrs Gandhi today about the latest situation in Pakistan. He also gave his assessment to External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao and Foreign Secretary R.D. Sathe.

INDIA-GUINEA JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON TOURE VISIT

BK200937 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] India and Guinea have expressed deep concern over the escalation of rivalry between great powers. Their presence in the Indian Ocean, particularly the strengthening of the military base in Diego Garcia, posed a threat to the Third World.

A joint communique issued at the end of the 4-day visit of President Toure of Guinea to India says that the two countries have also viewed the developments in Afghanistan as a natural consequence of the aggravated tensions in the region. It calls for a political settlement and respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

Expressing regret on the Iran-Iraq war, the two countries urged for a speedy settlement of the conflict by peaceful means. They supported all efforts currently being made to achieve the objective.

President Toure and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi have agreed that tension and confrontation in southern Africa cannot be eliminated until Namibia is liberated from illegal occupation by South Africa. They have reaffirmed their support for the Namibian peoples' inalienable rights to freedom and their solidarity with the struggle led by the SWAPO. The two leaders have also condemned all attempts by South Africa to subvert the UN plan for a peaceful settlement in Namibia. The communique also condemned the acts of armed aggression carried out by the South African regime against the frontline states.

On west Asia, the two countries called for withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab occupied territories, including Jerusalem. The two leaders have also reaffirmed their faith in nonalignment and described it as a positive force toward world peace. President Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi have accepted an invitation to visit Guinea.

GANDHI TALKS TO NEWSMEN ON FREEDOM OF PRESS

BK191631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has said that slogans like "Freedom of the press is imperiled" are being raised by newspaper owners who want to expand their empires. She was talking to a deputation of employees of a newspaper group in New Delhi today.

Mrs Gandhi agreed to the deputation that journalists do not have all their freedom. The prime minister pointed out that a recent book on the press in various countries, particularly in the West, brought out how freedom of press has been curbed by various special groups, such as employers. The deputation told her that attempts have been made to whittle down the recommendations of the Palekar tribunal [tribunal on treatment of journalists headed by Justice Palekar] to the detriment of the employees.

SUPPLIES MINISTER FIRED FOR ENCOURAGING DISSIDENTS

BK191555 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Minister for Civil Supplies V.C. Shukla was dropped from the Union Cabinet today. It is understood that he has been removed as a sequel to his poor performance in the ministry and a muddle in sugar distribution. Another reason for his removal is understood to be his open encouragement to dissidents within the party in Madhya Pradesh, despite repeated warnings by the central leadership.

Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi is reported to have told some of her colleagues that indiscipline in the party will not be tolerated and any move to weaken the unity of the party will be dealt with severely. She is further understood to have said every party man should devotedly and vigorously work for national reconstruction. Meanwhile, the president has accepted with immediate effect the resignation of Mr Shukla. He has directed Union Minister for Agriculture, Rural Reconstruction and Irrigation Rao Birendra Singh to hold temporary charge of the Ministry of Civil Supplies.

LT GEN KRISHNA RAO NAMED NEW ARMY CHIEF

BK200933 Delhi Comestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Lt Gen K.V. Krishna Rao is to be the new army chief. At present, he is general officer commanding in chief, western command. He will take over his new office on 18 June this year, replacing Gen O.P. Malhotra, who retires on 31 May.

Lt Gen Krishna Rao, who will be 58 next July, was commissioned into the army in 1942, saw action in Burma and the northwestern frontier during World War II and also in the Jammu and Kashmir operations immediately after independence. General Rao was an instructor in the defense services staff college, Wellington. He took part in the operations leading to the capture of Seylhet and the liberation of Bangladesh and was awarded the Param Vishist Seva medal for displaying outstanding leadership, courage, determination and drive during war. Gen Krishna Rao was also the chairman of the expert committee on reorganization and modernization of the army.

KARACHI CITES HAIG STATEMENT ON PAKISTAN

BK201122 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] American Secretary of State Alexander Haig has said that the security of Pakistan was of particular concern to the United States. He was testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington yesterday.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR CONTINUES VISIT

Talks With Agha Shahi

BK191532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr and Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi held talks in Islamabad today. Both foreign ministers especially exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, Middle East issues and the Iran-Iraq war. They expressed concern at the situation in Afghanistan and agreed that efforts to find a political solution to this issue in accordance with the wishes of the Afghan people be speeded up. The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on the current international situation and events taking place in the region. They accepted the importance of the policy of detente and stressed that this is as important to the rest of the world as to Europe. They said Austria's policy of neutrality and Pakistan's nonaligned policy are similar.

Both foreign ministers said it is very important to remove existing serious [economic] imbalances between developing and developed countries. In this connection they stressed initiating a dialogue immediately. They also (?called for) increasing bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

While the Austrian foreign minister was assisted by his delegation members in the talks, Agha Shahi was assisted by S. Shahnawaz, secretary general in the Foreign Ministry, the foreign secretary and other senior officials.

Meeting With Ziaul Haq

BK191718 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The Austrian foreign minister called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. They discussed global issues in general and the prevailing situation in the region in particular with special reference to the Soviet armed intervention in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister [Agha Shahi] and the Austrian ambassador to Pakistan were also present at the meeting, which lasted for an hour.

KHOMEYNI ADDRESSES MAJLIS DEPUTIES 19 MAR

LD191644 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Speech delivered by Ayatollah Khomeyni to the Majlis deputies on 19 March at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in Tehran--recorded, duration 47 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Of course, during the past year a great many trials and tribulations afflicted our nation. I still think that if there were no trials and tribulations, wars, loss of human life and other hardship, man would not renounce the inertia and love of comforts that are inherent in his nature. Of course, the war and its results are a great hardship for our nation. However, in return our young people, those who are spending their time at the fronts and those who feel the war, have displayed an unexpected resistance. All of this was the outcome of the blessings offered by the hardship, trials and tribulations, the war and its subsequent results. [passage ommitted: Results would have been different under regimes in which the nation does not participate in running its affairs; in Iran everyone takes part in the war effort]

You should follow the example of those strata of the masses who, expecting nothing in return, are serving the country and all of you as well, and we should mend our ways. If we were imbued by the same spirit, all of our affairs would move in one direction; and were individuals to have their affairs channeled in one direction--in other words, the movement should be that of God and concern for Him should prompt man to embark on his tasks--then no differences could possibly arise.

All the things with which mankind is afflicted stem from man himself, from the deeds carried out by man's hand. Of course, there are other things that afflict us from the invisible world. Perhaps all of these earthquakes, floods and tempests occur because we have not mended our ways. If we were to mend our ways--and those people who are influential among the masses, those to whom the people look for guidance, let them also follow suit--were these people who are the focus of the people's attention and whose deeds and words are followed by the people to pursue a single direction--when you speak it should be for the sake of God; when a man hears you, that too should be for God; and when a man writes, that too should be for God--then there would remain no differences whatever. Even if there were some differences of opinion, they would be resolved in a divine way and not in accordance with the ways of Satan.

The main thing is to mend this very center of oneself. All of our troubles stem from ourselves and reform should begin with ourselves. One should not expect, without having been reformed himself, to attempt to reform another. This is an empty thought. A man who is thus afflicted cannot reform others.

Apart from this, mankind is endowed with certain characteristics that are nonexistent in other beings. Among these one may include the fact that in man's nature there is the desire for absolute rather than limited power, a desire for absolute, not limited, perfection.

Just imagine a person who is the governor of a city. In his heart of hearts he would be dissatisfied, since he would wish to be the governor of a province. When he became the governor general of a province he would again be dissatisfied, since he would wish to have the entire country in his hands. But then, when he obtained the country in his grasp, he would still be dissatisfied, since he would wish other countries to come under his sway and domination.

You see for yourselves these two powers that exist in the world, on this earth. Neither cares for the other. The U.S. Government wishes to see Soviet Russia nonexistent while it itself exists, and the Soviet Union does not wish to see the United States existing, but wishes to exist itself. They delude themselves that that would be sufficient for them when, as a matter of fact, were one man to receive the entire earth, he would still be seeking what he does not possess. He would not be content with what he has. He would be constantly coveting the thing he does not have. This is because man is in love with absolute perfection. He is in love with absolute power.

"By the mention of God's name alone shall hearts be reassured" [Koranic verse] and not by mention of the presidency, the prime ministership or the powers and superpowers and not by owning everything in the world. That which would bring reassurance and would save man's self from the shakiness with which he is gripped is the mention of God's name--not a mere verbal mention of God's name whereby we would say: "There is no god but God--in one's heart.

Do something so that your anxieties disappear; do not increase your anxieties. The more you move ahead, the greater your anxieties become. Do something to make these bars, which separate you from the blessed Almighty God, disappear--and you are the biggest bar.

If you were to reach the stage where you could overlook yourself and do your work, then your work would not be for yourself but for God. Of necessity, when there is no self to contend with, there is no dispute, no quarrel. The prophets did not have disputes. If all of the prophets were to congregate in one place they would not have disputes.

We are working for this nation. We should consecrate all of our efforts to the salvation of this country, which has come to such a pass at a time when all are our enemies. Let us save it. All of us should ponder upon this salvation and we should not think of ourselves. Let us all endeavor to save man, to save one nation, to save Islam from the evils of these powers.

If you had just one house and wished to tidy it up, this would not be possible unless everyone, including women, men, children, maids and others, made up their minds to do so. [The result would be similar] if you were to wish to administer a country, unless you shared the same thoughts.

Those who are being killed on the country's borders, who are beset with the war, who have become refugees, who live on land in makeshift tents, all of these people are servants of God and are superior to us, to me and, possibly, to you as well. Why shouldn't we think of them?

Let us all strive to work for this Islamic nation and then everything will mend itself. Let us all devote ourselves in this new year which, God willing, will be a good one, to working and cooperation for this Islamic nation. Let us use our positions for the Islamic nation. Let us occupy this or that post for the benefit of the Islamic nation. Should this be achieved, albeit to a lesser degree, the new year would be one of peace and amity. [shouts of "God is the greatest"] I cherish the hope that God Almighty will take us by the hand, acquaint us with our duties, make us understand our sensual faults and guide us from such sensualities to the path of salvation. Peace be upon you. [shouts and cheers]

RAFSANJANI REQUESTS KHOMEYNI GUIDANCE FOR NEW YEAR

LD191318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, at a meeting of Majlis deputies with Ayatollah Khomeyni on 19 March at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. May God's blessings be upon the prophet of God and all his kin.

At the end of a year that has been very eventful as well as fruitful for the Islamic Republic, it is a great honor for the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to be received in the presence of the imam of the nation and to ask for his guidance. This is a source of gladness and gratitude. It is very appropriate that we thank him in his presence for the epoch-making message he issued in these fateful days; I especially wish to stress some of the points in this message, because of the importance I attach to their consequences. I hope that both the people and the deputies will pay full attention to its implementation and will make sure that it is carried out.

We know that one of the very important and effective things the Islamic Republic managed to carry out, and for which we can find few precedents in the history of various revolutions in the world, was that after the victory [of the revolution] it succeeded in speedily establishing various national organizations and in delineating their responsibilities.

This was the most important thing we did. Perhaps in the eyes of the traditional or tradition-afflicted revolutionaries, who believe that revolutions have their own rules, we acted wrongly in that we did not concentrate all power in one place for 10 or 15 years, did not create pressure and oppression and instead speedily created the organizations elected by the people. This was unprecedented and caused our enemies despair when they saw the country was consolidated. This was the result of the guidance of the imam, who often stressed that we had to act with speed. The first referendum, the writing of the Constitution, the referendum on the Constitution, the presidential elections, the elections of the majlis, and the elections for the councils--in all of these issues we acted with speed. You remember that at every stage, whenever we wanted to do something, our enemies started a conspiracy to stop us; they did not succeed.

Later, when all of the organizations were formed--and I agree that sometimes this was done in haste and that sometimes perhaps we had some shortcomings due to the lack of experience--the enemy despaired. They started a new stage in their conspiracies. When they did not achieve any results from the war or from the coup d'etat they thought of discrediting the organizations. The conspiracy tried to say that these organizations did not possess basic legitimacy and that it was possible that they were not in harmony with the Constitution or with the spirit of the revolution. They wanted to put these words into people's mouths and to open the path for the future, so that if they found a suitable opportunity they could disrupt these organizations. God only knows what would have happened then. At the head of these revolutionary organizations, which were targets of the conspiracy, was the Islamic Consultative Assembly and, perhaps, some other organizations. This judgment may not be very realistic, but it certainly was one of the most important targets of the conspiracy. The tensions and clashes that came into being opened the path for this conspiracy. No matter who created the tension, whether a friend or an enemy, whether an ignorant friend or a willful enemy, this was a conspiracy. Sometimes we were caught in the trap, sometimes others were caught and at times the conspiracy advanced according to a plan.

This message of the imam has this clear characteristic. [sentence as heard] At the end of the year, at a time when we wish to evaluate our past actions, if we wish to characterize the last year, if we wish to give it a designation in history, we should say that it was the year of the consolidation of organizations and a year when the Islamic Republic was consolidated.

The end of the year was a time when conspiracies were hatched against these organizations. I say this in the presence of the imam and if my evaluation is not correct I expect the imam to correct it: The latter part of the year was a time of conspiracies to disrupt these organizations, and the message [of Khomeyni] reaffirmed the gains of the year and caused despair in the enemy. This is very important.

We, the Majlis, revolutionary organizations and other national officials, the president, the government, the Judicial Council, the Council of Guardians and whatever exists in this country should follow this path and should not allow these organizations to be discredited, allow the people to lose their confidence in these organizations or make it impossible for them to be able to carry out their roles.

Of course, I admit that there are some shortcomings in all of these things. The coming year should be a year of correcting the shortcomings and smoothing the path of these organizations and delineating responsibilities, which is very important. An important aspect of the stage after the victory [of the revolution] is that responsibilities are vague and people interfere in the responsibilities of others, perhaps not through ill will but through differences of interpretation. This stage started with this message of the imam. Personally, I humbly welcome this message and in all parts of this message I see signs of wisdom, especially in the consolidation of the organizations, the delineation of responsibilities and the defeat of the conspiracy to create tension.

In general, in the coming year, we should be vigilant henceforth and whenever we notice tension we should put an end to it, whether it is caused by friends or enemies. Once again, I thank the imam for giving us this opportunity to see him despite all of his work and I ask him to give us his guidance for the coming year, especially now, when the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly are returning to their constituencies for the New Year holidays, so that with the guidance of the imam they will be able to serve the people.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

BANI-SADR SPEECH AT 5 MAR TEHRAN UNIVERSITY RALLY

LD191001 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Mar 81 pp 3, 11

[Unattributed report: "Text of President's Speech at Tehran University"]

[Excerpts] President of the Republic Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr addressed a rally at Tehran University yesterday, attended by people from all walks of life, in commemoration of the anniversary of the death of Dr Mohammad Mossadeq.

On the theme that the international situation is such that neither of the two superpowers want to see Iran win the war, the president said:

"To America, a victory for us would signify the end of that superpower's foreign policy. You all know that following the compromise adopted by As-Sadat, America has regained its lost positions one by one and is out to complete its domination of the region. It was looking to Saddam's attack on Iran as a means of finalizing this victory and it hoped that the attack would prove conclusive. It has now given up any hope of victory resulting from Saddam's attack. But the least it can do is to prevent Iran from winning, since it knows that in the wake of our victory there would be a wave of revolution throughout the Middle East and that America's interests and its position in the region would be in grave danger. This is why it is striving to weaken us with all of its means, going as far as to sap our will to resist.

"However, the Russian superpower does not want us to win either.

"You all know that our victory would signify the victory of the Islamic view, which holds that when a nation relies on itself and stands on its own feet it can attain victory through the strength of the loyalty and initiative of its sons, without American or Russian arms. All of the enslaved nations would thus use this valuable experience to escape from the hegemony of the world powers. Afghanistan next door, together with many other places in the world, would learn from our great lesson. When they understand how our poorly-equipped armed forces and troops victoriously faced a well-equipped armed force that has been receiving arms and help from all over the world, who in the world would fail to emulate us? It is inevitable that those who thirst for independence, freedom and populism and who wish to rule over their own destiny would see in our victory the experience of a great lesson, just as they must learn a lesson from our revolution. Thus, these two superpowers, because of their hegemony-seeking policies in Afghanistan and in both Islamic and non-Islamic countries, do not find our victory acceptable.

"Locally, too, there are those who are terrified of our victory; they are subservient to foreign powers and are short-sighted; they imagine that a victory for us in this war would be a personal victory for the president of the republic, while such a victory is really that of the soldiers, guards and all men and women across the country who are working actively for the defeat of the enemy."

According to the PARS report, the president of the republic continued his speech with a reference to the discussions held by the delegation investigating the war imposed by Iraq on Iran with members of the Supreme Defense Council.

"The leaders of the Islamic countries presented certain proposals to us, which are now being studied. The tapes of the precise discussions we had with them will in due course be released in full to you, the Muslim people of Iran. For the time being, I would like to say that our views, as given to the delegation, fall under the following three headings:

"1. A cease-fire and withdrawal must take place simultaneously and immediately.

"2. We do not agree to anything not contained in the 1975 agreement.

"3. As the imam has said: 'An Islamic, international delegation should investigate the aggression.'

"If these three conditions are met, we shall of course accept the proposals of the At-Ta'if conference select delegation.

"A number of those who wish to set the scene for our defeat are rumoring that I am quite in favor of compromising with the enemy, who has committed aggression against our country. Some have even said that I have made certain promises to Mr Palme. Whether I could do so without the nation desiring this is one matter; another point is that the president of the republic is elected by the nation and cannot act beyond the nation's mandate."

On the subject of his presence at the battlefronts, Mr Bani-Sadr said:

"As your representative, I shall not give in and agree with anything that endangers a single inch of your territory and your republic. To those who are trying to pervert the truth, [I would ask,] when a nation elects someone and entrusts him to guard its independence, why do you say things to weaken him, both internationally and before the enemy?"

Mr Bani-Sadr then referred to the attacks being currently directed at him, noting that the campaign is being waged in the newspapers.

"When a nation has made its choice, this means that it has decided and has elected someone who will not be deterred from the fray by clubs, sticks or threats, and who will not yield either. I am always being asked why I tell everyone what I think. The answer is that when I see things going wrong, I must speak out."

The president then referred to a magazine article, entitled "Did the President Change His Stance After the Revolution?" in the following terms:

"He who worships God and not might will not act wrongly. According to this magazine, I emerged from dictatorship to freedom. God forbid that the day should come when we pass from freedom to dictatorship. Fortunately, the opposite has been the case. But in reality, this is not the point. Those who understand the meaning of 'ideological imposition' know that in order to discredit the meaning of independence and freedom, they must resort to such acts.

"Seven months before I became president, I said that freedom without independence is a deception. I said this at the outset of my speech and I am saying the same thing at Azadi Square."

On the failure to withdraw Iran's funds from American banks, the president said that when he was acting minister of economic and financial affairs, he had ordered this to be done and had made the necessary preparations, but America had previously decided to block Iran's money and had signed the necessary instruments to do this.

Referring to a newspaper article that praised him and said that the university had been closed down on his orders, Mr Bani-Sadr said:

"I gave no such order; whether or not this was a worthy act, the fact is that I did not do it. When I returned from Khuzestan I saw that something new was being hatched and that a situation prevailed in which some people wanted to stir up public unrest. You subsequently saw how the Tabas incident, aimed at the restoration [of the former regime] and the overthrow of the republic, came about.

"I explained all of this in detail at the time; I asked why the university should be closed down. They said: 'For the cultural revolution.' I said: 'Do this during the vacations or in the summer.' I still say that a generation cannot be left in a state of uncertainty. The imam ordered that a cultural revolution should take place but he did not say that it should last to the end of eternity. We have carried out an Islamic revolution so that the university might express independent and original ideas and our Islamic culture, as well as the spirit of independence and freedom seeking among today's generation. Such a university should be opened at the first opportunity."

On the subject of the radio and television organization and the fact that he does not give it interviews, the president of the republic said:

"It does not benefit the republic that its publicity organization should become monopolistic. Radio and television should give the people the news exactly as it is, without anything taken away, and it should be a place for free discussion, where all those with views to express can come and speak, so that the people can make a shrewd choice of the road they wish to follow. In view of the situation through which the country is now passing, despite high prices, unemployment, civil and foreign wars, shortages of provisions and all of the difficulties facing the country, I have no doubt that today's generation will overcome all of these problems and will be victorious."

The president added:

"America knows that its main enemy is the person who says that our people alone must decide their own destiny."

"Our country must be run on the basis of mutual understanding, accord and unity, but this does not mean that everyone should bow to the dictates of a single group. The meaning of 'accord' is that the Islamic forces who have faith in the Islamic Republic should begin to speak in unity and should advance with strength and endurance. You keep asking me 'What should be done?' I tell you that there are two undertakings: Mine, which is that I shall not betray the Islamic revolution, but guard the Islamic homeland and its independence and, while I live, strive to fulfill your aspirations; while you in turn should not forget that you have undertaken to support me, and should not shrink from the arena, for while you remain in the arena there is no danger that can threaten the independence of Iran, your freedom or the Islamic Republic.

"I am quite hopeful that those running the radio and television organization and the newspapers will travel along the path of the Islamic revolution and will not stir up confrontation or provocation or poison the atmosphere."

On the subject of the recently published statement to the effect that the president had stayed in a palace while in Dezful, the president said:

"Those who are there know where I stay. Anyway, such propaganda, as I have indicated, does not fool the people. You should not do anything that leads people to believe the opposite of everything they see or read. Thus I hope that in practice we shall see our radio and television service administered as required by Islam, with the utmost impartiality. As soon as this comes about, I shall take part in a discussion. I have nothing against anyone personally."

The president then said:

"You, the people, should know that those who have infiltrated the institutions and who are attacking the president from within them are the enemies of the revolution and of Islam. Why should the president want to oppose the guards or the loyal and sincere people? Those putting out this propaganda have two aims: to bring the institutions into conflict with the people and to drag the institutions into a state of hostility with the president. You should realize that none of this will have the slightest effect on me. Our revolutionary institutions must realize that if, God forbid, they lose the people's support, the revolution will be in grave danger. They must always retain the people's affection. Those who have influenced them and who have engaged in the sort of acts being carried out today are your enemies."

In conclusion, the president addressed his remarks to the club wielders:

"You should understand and break your clubs. What harm produced by the brain do you see that leads you to substitute clubs for brains? Use your brains instead of clubs; then you will see how sound, pure and purged our society will become.

"God willing, and with support from you, the people, the republic will overcome danger and will be victorious."

BANI-SADR CALLS FOR 1 APR MARCH THROUGH TEHRAN

LD192204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The office of the president has issued the following statement:

In His exalted name. "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God provides and be not divided among yourselves." [Koranic verse] On the occasion of the anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1 April, and on the eve of the third spring of the victory of the Islamic revolution, the president calls on the Iranian nation to stage a nationwide march, to prove to the world once again the immutable will of the freedom-seeking Iranian nation to completely secure its independence and freedom, which is the philosophy characteristic of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The president expects the dear Muslim compatriots to take an active part in the march and to mark the anniversary of the Islamic Republic, in the hope that this day will manifest the unity of all popular, genuine and independent forces.

In Tehran, the route for the march will be from Imam Khomeyni Square toward Azadi Square, where only the imam's unifying message will be delivered, read by his valiant son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. Further details will be made available in coming days. Looking forward to the realization of Islamic aspirations.

[Signed] Public relations office of the office of the president

BANI-SADR VISITS HELICOPTER UNIT, RETURNS

LD191746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] According to PARS, President Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, commander in chief of the armed forces, inspected maneuvers carried out today by the Airborne Division at Kushke-e Nosrat. The president, who returned to Tehran from Khuzestan at 1100 this morning, immediately left for Kushke-e Nosrat, in the vicinity of Qom. He was welcomed by the pilots, air force technicians, engineers, airborne technicians and personnel of the Iranian helicopter renovation and supply company.

According to the same report, the inspection, which lasted more than 4 hours, was also attended by Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the air force. First Engineer (Eskandari), managing director of the Panha Company, described the activities of this company and explained various inventions and innovations carried out by the Iranian engineers and technicians on helicopters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He remarked that these innovations by the young Iranian engineers are not to be found anywhere else in the world and are a step toward making our country less dependent on foreign products.

Afterward, the president inspected the helicopters to which these innovations had been applied. While chatting with the technicians and pilots of the Airborne Division and with engineers and technicians of the Panha Company, he thanked them and praised them for their hard work and efforts.

The same report indicates that the helicopters of the Airborne Division then demonstrated these inventions and innovations in various maneuvers.

At the end of the inspection, the president and his entourage left for Behesht-e Zahra [Tehran cemetery] to take part in ceremonies honoring the memory of martyrs of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Because of the great mass of people gathering around the helicopter on its arrival, the president was not able to take part in the ceremonies.

RAJA'I STATEMENT ON OIL NATIONALIZATION DAY

GF191202 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Tomorrow will be the anniversary of the nationalization of the oil industry in Iran. On this national occasion, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i has issued a statement, in which he referred to the struggle of our heroic people to restore their national rights and to cut off the hands of international wealth and imperialist plunderers.

He said: The victory of our people in this uprising was achieved through the unity and solidarity of the sons of the people, under sublime Islamic regulations.

Its final fall was due to the discord disseminated by imperialism among the close ranks of the people, which finally led to the usurpation of 25 years of power by a despotic, imperialist agent regime. Brother Raja'i added: We must learn from previous lessons to preserve the achievements of our Islamic revolution, for which we have sacrificed so much blood, and to foil all of the plots and conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and of our revoluion.

ESHRAQI ON REASONS FOR MISSION TO AZARBAYJAN

LD191338 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau dispatch, Ayatollah Hajj Agha Shahabeddin Eshraqi, who by order of Imam Khomeyni led a delegation to Western Azarbayjan to investigate the situation of misled individuals who seek safe conduct, replied in a radio and television interview yesterday afternoon to questions put to him by our colleague. In further explaining his mission, Ayatollah Eshraqi said:

Defense of and support for the deprived and meek constitutes one of the fundamental principles of the divine doctrine of Islam. Therefore, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran regards investigation of our Kurdish brothers' position as one of the most important priorities. Regrettably, certain parties and groups, under the pretext of setting up an autonomous Kordestan, are using various means to sabotage the fulfillment of this pure intention.

He added: Recently, a number of these misled individuals have become sorry and now seek to return to the embrace of Islam. Therefore, the imam commanded me to travel to this region to investigate the matter. I hope that the outcome of these investigations will be the region's progress toward calm.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Eshraqi said: Should security be established and the situation return to normal in Kordestan, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran would begin development projects in the region. He added: The government would act with utmost energy in this direction, but cooperation between the government and the people would speed up this process.

STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, POLISARIO

LD192244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] PARS reports that in connection with a resolution issued by the European Parliament pertaining to autonomy for Western Sahara's Polisario, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic has released a statement.

While explaining the activities of colonizers and world oppressors, led by world-devouring America, who by relying on internal bases and mercenaries in the Third World countries always ignore a nation's sovereignty, the statement alludes to the effective role played by the Muslim Iranian nation in revealing the plots hatched by U.S. imperialism. It says: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning this resolution, expresses its complete support for the liberation struggles of the fraternal Muslim people of Sahara to frustrate any kind of domination by Eastern and Western superpowers, to oppose the aggressive Maghreb forces and to attain their country's sovereignty. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers this resolution to be a new step by U.S. imperialism toward crushing struggling and freedom-seeking nations. We are convinced that this plot, like other plots in the past, will be frustrated.

JAPANESE ENVOY DENIES ARMS SALES TO IRAQ

LD191732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] PARS reports that the Japanese ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the prime minister's deputy and political adviser, this evening. In the course of the meeting, during which matters of mutual interest were discussed, the Japanese ambassador denied his country's military assistance to aggressive Saddam's regime, adding that, in accordance with article nine of Japan's Constitution, his country cannot export arms to any country.

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR DEPARTS FOR COLOMBO MEETING

GF200620 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] 'Ali Reza Nobari, the governor of the Central Bank, left Tehran yesterday to participate in the annual meeting of the Asian Barter Union in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Union's main aim is the development and expansion of economic and banking relations among Asian countries, so as to increase cooperation among them and to reduce their links with the capitalist world, consequently freeing themselves of such dependence.

MIZAN CLAIMS IMAM MUSA AS-SADR ALIVE, IN LIBYA

NC190937 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 19 Mar (AFP)--Imam Musa as-Sadr, leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite community and missing since August 1978, is alive and being held in a barracks in Libya, the Iranian newspaper MIZAN said, quoting an unidentified leader of the Lebanese political-military organization Amal.

Imam as-Sadr vanished during a trip to Libya. Libyan authorities maintained he had left Tripoli for Rome but his arrival there was never confirmed.

The Amal spokesman, who plans to ask Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to give the disappearance top priority, told MIZAN that it was of utmost importance "for the Iranian and Lebanese and for all Islamic peoples" that the religious leader be released.

Iran's leader met Tuesday with leaders from Amal, which was founded by Imam as-Sadr in 1974.

TEHRAN REPORTS 678 PRISONERS TO BE AMNESTIED

LD191104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] According to PARS, the public relations office of the Ministry of Justice announced: On the occasion of the New Year and the 1 April anniversary of the announcement of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the files of 5,011 prisoners were studied by a special committee composed of committed judges and employees, at the suggestion of the Amnesty Department. As a result, 678 prisoners will be freed before the beginning of the new year.

According to this report, the Amnesty Department of the Ministry of Justice is continuing its investigation and it is possible that more prisoners will be reprieved.

16 PRISONERS RELEASED IN KHORASAN 19 MAR

GF191650 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The division of prisoners of the Mashhad Police Department has announced that, following the release of 220 prisoners in accordance with an amnesty order from the imam of the nation on 11 February, another 16 prisoners have been released today in accordance with the order.

IRAQI SOLDIERS DEFECT, JOIN IRAQI REBELS

LD191906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau, quoting informed sources of the joint operation headquarters of Kordestan, reports that a few days ago several Iraqi soldiers escaped with their weapons from the Biareh garrison of Iraq and joined the Muslim Kurdish combatants of Iraq. This report says that a clash occurred between these deserting soldiers and Iraqi mercenaries at the time of their escape and as a result 3 soldiers were killed and 6 were wounded; during the same clash 15 of Saddam's mercenaries were killed and several were wounded.

Another report indicates that last week several Iraqi Muslim peshmerga attacked As-Sulaymaniyah and, after killing the police chief and three police officers of this city, left the region without suffering any loss. According to the Central News Bureau, the police of Saddam's regime arrested 20 supporters of the Iraqi combatants in As-Sulaymaniyah following this attack. The people of the city staged a demonstration in protest against the arrests.

The inhabitants of Halabjah, in particular teachers and other educationalists of the city, also staged demonstrations in support of the Iraqi Muslim combatants.

NABAVI SAYS IRAN HAS NAVAL SUPERIORITY IN GULF

GF191829 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs and government spokesman, has answered various questions from correspondents in a radio and television interview.

Referring to U.S. military exercises and the reinforcement of imperialist bases in the region, Nabavi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has superiority in the Persian Gulf from the standpoint of naval strength. It is watching the situation very carefully and will not allow anyone to interfere in its affairs. He added: As for the political situation, the government is fully aware of these U.S. activities that are being directed against the Islamic Republic. The government's views are announced by the Foreign Ministry as necessary.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 440 ON 18-19 MAR BATTLES

LD191854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1650 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Communique 440 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Islamic Republic's Armed Forces consider the protection of Islam's sacred goals and the safeguarding of the revolution's and Islamic homeland's trenches as their great mission. To achieve these objectives, they are courageously fighting the devious enemy. Here are some of the operations carried out by the Islamic fighters over the past 24 hours:

1. On the southern fronts:

A. At 1137 today, following a series of successful joint operations launched by the Air Force and Navy of the Islamic Republic, one large Iraqi warship was blown up in the northern sector of the Persian Gulf.

B. As a result of our fighting units' fire on enemy positions on the Abadan front, 6 enemy trenches, 3 heavy machinegun positions, 2 artillery pieces, 2 mortars, 1 medium-range 106-mm gun and 2 munition dumps were blown up and 27 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded.

C. As a result of enemy artillery fire, 12 houses were destroyed and 1 government building was damaged in Abadan. Also, 4 people were martyred and 24 were wounded.

D. In the Khuninshahr area, two mortar positions and a number of Iraqi trenches were demolished by naval gunfire. Also, a number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded. During a series of other operations in the same area, 12 trenches, 1 munition dump and 1 Katyusha missile were set ablaze and more than 17 enemy troops were killed.

E. On the Susangerd and Hamidiyeh fronts the enemy increased its artillery fire. However, our units returned the fire and destroyed one Iraqi tank, two loading vehicles and two other vehicles, as well as some ammunition. Also, 10 enemy troops were killed or wounded.

2. On the western fronts:

A. The artillery of the Islamic Republic's Ground Forces brought a number of Iraqi Army bases under fire in the southern sector of Biarreh and (Halabjah), thus forcing the enemy to change its position. In addition, the Niarren bridge was destroyed by our machineguns. During other operations in the same area, four trenches, one observation post, one personnel camp and one enemy vehicle were totally destroyed.

B. The enemy yesterday launched an offensive to capture the Chaghalvand heights. However, the alertness and fighting spirit of our forces frustrated the offensive and forced the enemy to retreat. During these operations one Iraqi officer was captured.

C. In the Mehran area 10 infidel enemy troops were killed or wounded and one Iraqi was captured.

D. In the (Hajiyan) pass one fuel truck, one tank position and a number of trenches were destroyed by our heroic forces; another enemy tank was set ablaze some 10 km from this area.

E. Yesterday six enemy planes violated the airspace of the southern fronts and the western sector of the country but were forced to flee by our antiaircraft fire.

F. On 17 March 15 of our brothers were martyred during fighting, thus sacrificing their lives for the Islamic revolution. Of those martyred, 10 were the brave personnel of the state gendarmerie, 3 belonged to the navy and the other 2 were members of the ground forces.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

FIGHTING CONTINUES ON WESTERN, SOUTHERN FRONTS

Guards Corps Statement

LD191128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps about the brave operations of the self-sacrificing forces of Islam on the battlefields between truth and falsehood:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We shall win the war and there is no doubt about this--Imam Khomeyni.

Following the victorious operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, which were carried out with the cooperation of the brothers from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we once again poured the poison of defeat and despair in the mouths of those who have risen against the Islamic homeland. Yesterday, the enemy tried to regain some of the positions it had lost the day before on the Susangerd front; in this effort they lost 40 of personnel and 3 tanks.

At dawn yesterday, the self-sacrificing guards, in a guerrilla operation, inflicted some losses on the enemy forces and at least one of their personnel carriers and one Ural truck could be seen. [sentence as heard]

Intense fighting has continued on the (Tarrah) front between the guards corps and the Iraqi aggressors. Saddam's forces lost two tanks and suffered heavy losses. The exact figures will be announced later.

At the Darkhovin axis, as a result of artillery fire by our forces on the supply routes of the enemy, two enemy vehicles were completely destroyed.

[Signed] The Public Relations Department of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Iraqis Repulsed in West

LD191848 Tehran Domestic Sercice in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Summary] According to a PARS report from Kermanshah, Iranian combatants today captured 32 enemy soldiers along the western front. During this attack, launched in the vicinity of the Chaghalvand heights of Gilan-e Gharb, a large number of Saddam's blasphemous mercenaries were killed. Today, on the Gilan-e Gharb front, a reinforced enemy battalion, while retreating, ran over their own cluster mines and their bodies were blown up in the air. Many of the Iraqi tank troops in the region left their tanks and cowardly fled the battlefield. There were 13 martyrs of the Islamic revolution in today's Gilan-e Gharb operations.

PARS reports that on these heights, 50 Iraqi soldiers were killed during today's successful operations and 36 trenches, 3 tanks, 2 vehicles carrying ammunition, 1 ammunition dump, 1 TOW missile launcher and 1 57-mm gun were destroyed and 1 enemy personnel carrier was captured.

On the Arkavaz heights of Malekshahi, our valiant gendarmerie forces defeated an enemy counteroffensive and killed 20 enemy soldiers.

Heavy artillery fire began early this morning on the Qasr-e Shirin and Zahab fronts and this evening five enemy trenches and two mortar positions were destroyed. The same report indicates that on the Konjamcham and Kan-e Sakht fronts, heavy artillery battles continue. Sporadic artillery fire also continues in the Nowsud region. Artillery fire by our forces pounded enemy positions in Tavileh, Khormal, Sayyed Sadeq and Halabcheh.

During a clash this afternoon in the region of Kharajian and Ravansar between the defenders of the revolution and counterrevolutionaries, four counterrevolutionaries were killed and a number of them were wounded. A large amount of equipment was seized from the counterrevolutionaries as well.

A truck carrying several combatants of Islam hit a landmine. Five defenders of the Islamic revolution thus gained the exalted rank of martyrdom and seven were injured.

Western Front Offensive

GF191530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The PARS correspondent in Kermanshah reports that the defenders of Islam are continuing to deal fatal blows to enemy forces in the western part of the country. In a recent attack, they regained strategic heights and areas from these forces.

The defenders of Islam launched a fierce attack against Saddam's forces on the western fronts this morning, inflicting heavy losses. The attack began at 0530 today and is still continuing in favor of our victorious Islamic forces.

PARS reports that more than 50 Iraqis have been killed and 32 captured. The forces of the valiant army, Islamic revolution guards, gendarmerie and airborne forces are continuing to hit hard at enemy positions, fortifications and equipment. As a result, 25 enemy fortifications and 1 tank have been destroyed. Our forces have captured one enemy personnel carrier.

The valiant forces of the gendarmerie have succeeded in repulsing an enemy attack on the Arkavaz [Qal'eh Darreh] and Malekshahi heights, killing 20 enemy personnel.

In an artillery clash in Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, our Islamic forces have destroyed five enemy fortifications and two mortar emplacements.

Abadan Artillery Duel

GF191539 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau correspondent in Abadan, who personally visited various fronts in Abadan and Khuninshahr today, has reported the following: An ammunition truck and a tank belonging to the Ba'thist heathens were set on fire by a mortar unit of the brother fighters of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning on the Abadan-Zulfaqari front. One enemy antiaircraft unit was also damaged.

Quoting a local expert on military matters, our correspondent--who witnessed the destruction of this equipment belonging to the Ba'thist heathens--has reported the following: The selfless fighters of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire with 120-mm mortars and set one of the heathens' ammunition dumps on fire yesterday afternoon. He added: Following the battle, which started at 1920 yesterday and ended at 1300 today, the artillery of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran--with the accurate aid of selfless revolution guard spotters--brought the positions of the Ba'thist infidels under fire in the occupied portions of Khuninshahr. The operation destroyed not only several machinegun and RPG-7 positions, but also two 130-mm cannon, one vehicle and two ammunition dumpts belonging to the mercenaries of the American Saddam. The motor pool of those who have been deceived by Saddam at-Tikriti came under the same attack and approximately 20 enemy vehicles were set on fire. One of the spotters in this operation told our reporter: During all of my service in Khuninshahr, this has been the best operation; it was carried out very well.

Minu Island Fighting

GF191653 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The Central News Bureau correspondent reports that the exchange of fire between brother gendarmes of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saddam's lackeys of Minu Island was very heavy yesterday. The selfless gendarmes maintained complete control over the borderline on the island. [as heard]

DISPATCH DATE ANNOUNCED FOR SHIRAZ GENDARMES

GF191704 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] The Shiraz Gendarmerie Division has announced that the deadline for dispatching personnel whose service terminated between 21 March 1976 and 20 March 1978, who served in the ground forces and who have not been dispatched due to various reasons, is 1200 tomorrow. Those individuals who are absent will be dealt with in accordance with wartime regulations.

AZARBAYJAN REBEL ATTACKS REPULSED BY ARMY

LD191912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] PARS reports that the political department of the Western Azarbayjan governor general's office has announced that on Tuesday, illegal armed groups attacked a relief group's position in the vicinity of (Pir-Naser) hill, in the region of Oshnoviyeh. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic in the region strongly repulsed the assailants' attack and inflicted some losses on them.

Another report says that on 16 March illegal armed individuals opened fire on the defending forces of the revolution at Sar Dasht garrison from the eastern side of the garrison. The defending forces of the revolution returned their fire and inflicted some losses on the assailants.

RADIO IRAN: U.S. LAUNCHES SURVEILLANCE SATELLITE

NC191735 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Following the U.S. decision to maintain peace in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, it launched a military reconnaissance satellite yesterday.

According to LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, this powerful reconnaissance satellite was launched by a [name indistinct] from Cape Canaveral.

Reports indicate that by using this satellite, the U.S. Government has placed the entire Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean area under a radar cover and that it will know of the smallest military incidents.

RADIO IRAN CHARGES BEHESHTI COOPERATED WITH SHAH

NC191747 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Documents revealing cooperation between Mohammad Beheshti, the president of the Supreme Court and leader of the Islamic Republican Party, and the shah's regime have been published.

The London-based Persian-language newspaper POST-E IRAN published in its recent issue a document that shows that the president of the Senate during the last regime, engineer Sharif-Emami, had, on behalf of Ayatollah (?Khonsari), introduced Mohammad Beheshti to the chief of police at the time and, praising Beheshti's good services, asked the police chief to take the necessary measures to send him to the FRG as soon as possible. In his letter of introduction, Sharif-Emami also stated that the case had been brought up with his majesty and that his majesty had ordered that the supervision of canonical affairs of Iranians residing in Hamburg should by all means be given to Mr Mohammad Beheshti. It is interesting to note that after the shah's regime sent Beheshti to Hamburg and after the construction of the Hamburg Mosque, the financial affairs of which were in Beheshti's hands, he embezzled 2 million marks, which enraged the shah.

RADIO IRAN REPORTS IRANIAN CLASH IN PARIS

NC191809 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Report by Radio Iran's Paris correspondent]

[Excerpt] In Paris, a major gathering place for Iranians, a number of magnificent programs were organized to mark the last Wednesday before the end of the year, or Chaharshanbeh Suri, one of which I attended to prepare my report. At this ceremony, which was attended by more than 2,000 people, two things especially attracted my attention. The first was that a majority of the people were dressed in black, in sympathy with both the innocent patriots who have been caught in the deadly claws of the turbaned tyrants and with the war's martyrs. The second is that instead of lighting the bonfires in the ordinary fashion, the fires were lit with effigies of Khomeyni.

At about 1800, when the children, old and young, were jumping over the fire [a tradition observed on the last Wednesday of the year] made with effigies of Khomeyni, and people were chanting traditional Chaharshanbeh Suri chants, a group of hooligans and knife-wielding Hezbollahis hired by Khomeyni's embassy in Paris arrived on the scene to disrupt order and create a riot. Fortunately, this time, too, the brave patriotic youths and students immediately disarmed them and handed them over to the security police.

It should be noted that each of Khomeyni's embassies in Europe and America have 30 to 40 knife wielders in their service. The duty of these monsters is to disrupt meetings and demonstrations by anti-Khomeyni Iranians. It is interesting to note that Khomeyni's Islamic Government has given these hooligans diplomatic passports, so that each time they are handed over to the authorities by freedom-seeking Iranians they are immediately released and return to their posts. Since anti-Khomeyni demonstrations are increasing more and more each day and since the ranks of the freedom-seeking strugglers is becoming stronger, these knife-wielders and hooligans sent by Khomeyni spend most of their time in police stations or, if the police are not present, they return to their embassy with broken legs and arms.

NVOI CRITICIZES KHOMEYNI STATEMENT ON LEADERS

TA200519 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Final Victory Belongs to the Popular and Anti-Imperialist Line of the Revolution"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Imam Khomeyni's message is still the most important issue of discussion by the true forces of the revolution and the sincere followers of the popular and anti-imperialist line of the glorious revolution of our nation. The decisive majority, on the basis of their deep belief and faith in Imam Khomeyni and his popular and anti-imperialist line, hope that the imam's message in the present dangerous and sensitive conditions will be effective in preventing the intensification of differences among government figures, although they believe that it is difficult to succeed in eliminating differences in such a manner. Thus, they are awaiting the imam's real resolution of these differences, which have very deep political and economic roots.

The differences among government figures led the fate of the revolution and its gains to very sensitive and dangerous stages and clearly exposed the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran to very great danger. These differences, as is clear to everyone, were not merely between this or that government figure, meaning they could be overlooked.

Rather, the difference, very intense and deep at that, was between two lines: the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line and the imperialist and antipopular line of the liberals. Thus, the discomfort of a great number of circles is due to the differences, which remain at the same intensity and vehemency. In such conditions, the order to political parties and organizations and to the media that they remain silent about government figures, and consequently about their actions, is not a discomfort that is without basis, particularly bearing in mind the fact that the attitude of the true forces of the revolution toward all of the acute problems and difficulties of society has always rightly been and continues to fall within the framework of preserving the gains of the revolution against the aggression of imperialism and the plot of its fifth column in Iran, especially the liberals, and developing and broadening the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line.

Our homeland's people and the true forces of the people, while having deep inward faith in Imam Khomeyni and infinite respect and gratitude for his revolutionary sincerity and decisiveness in safeguarding the gains of the revolution against the aggressions of the arch-Satan and his stooges in the region and the plots of the counterrevolution within the country, are faced with certain questions to which they are seeking an answer. For example, will the liberals (?henceforth) not attempt to promote their counterrevolutionary aims by taking advantage of the formulation of the second point of the message, while creating difficulties for the true backers and supporters of the revolution?

During the more than 2 years of the life of the Islamic Republic, the true forces and parties and organizations committed to the revolution have proven in practice their principled opposition to any kind of insult to any individual, especially to official authorities, and to any action that weakens the system of the republic. It was precisely these same liberal gentlemen and the elements and agents of the CIA and the Pentagon, who from the very first movements of the revolution's victory, were handed the club used by SAVAK on the recommendation of the Zionist Brzezinski, the designer of all the anti-Iranian regime's plans. They are making and continue to make all-out use of this SAVAK club, the club of insult, slander and discord, the club of attack and assault on the true forces of the revolution and occupy their offices and residences to promote the aims of their overseas masters.

The true forces of the revolution, many of the leaders of the republican system, officials of the revolution's institutions and millions of Iranians whose own fate is that of the system of the Islamic Republic, are justly concerned that Mr President, even given the imam's backing and support for him, has unfortunately not taken the slightest measure to overcome the just concern of Iran's liberated people who, willingly or unwillingly, have observed him in the line of the liberals. The people rightly believe that, at least for the sake of respect for the imam's confidence and support for him, he should prove in practice, as soon as possible, that he is a sincere follower of the imam's path and a principled opponent of the liberals' path.

The establishment of the three-man committee, comprising the imam's representative, the president's representative and as stated in the message, the other side's representative, and the act of entrusting many affairs, including the fate of the newspapers and the press, to this committee are issues that must arouse the concern of the true forces of the revolution and the followers of the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line. The sincere supporters and defenders committed to the revolution justly demand that the imam and government figures devote attention to certain points in the message that could be exploited by opponents of the imam's line, who are based at sensitive military and civilian centers, against the sincere followers of the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist line.

The followers of the imam's line are concerned that the enemies of the revolution, by taking advantage of these points, will, contrary to the imam's wish, exacerbate differences.

Cases where the foes of the imam's line exploit the imam's guidelines agasinst the true backers of the republican system have, unfortunately, not been few. As we are observing, while the true forces of the revolution, by virtue of the imam's sincerity and revolutionary decisiveness, continue to hope for the revolution's final victory and are determined to safeguard the revolution and its gains to the last breath, they are also justly concerned about the fate of the revolution and the republican system. A fact that must necessarily be pointed out is that the sacred patriotic struggles of Iran's liberated people against the line of the liberals and other foes of the revolution will continue to the last breath. An Iranian will defend his independence and freedom to his last drop of blood. The decisive and final victory belongs to the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line.

NVOI COMMENTS ON STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM

TA191854 [Editorial report] Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 19 March carried a commentary entitled: "The Important and Main Thing Is the Struggle AGainst the Counterrevolution and Rabid U.S. imperialism." It said: A review of past events and arrival at the necessary conclusions is always to the benefit of society and of the struggling people of our homeland, particularly in conditions when the counterrevolution and rabid U.S. imperialism are attempting to take advantage of the situation to mislead opinion, to aggravate the climate of dissatisfaction and to weaken our Islamic Republic. In this connection it is appropriate that we once again discuss the strike by some of the workers of the United Bus Company. No one is claiming that the demands of these workers and of most of our workers are illegitimate. However, one should bear in mind that, at present, the main issue is the struggle against world-devouring U.S. imperialism and the counterrevolution. The agents of imperialism, the compromising liberals and the Maoists are trying to enlarge the shortcomings and inadequacies resulting from the war imposed on our homeland, and to divert the workers from the primary line of struggle. They are trying to provoke the workers to disrupt production and services. It should not be left unsaid that some of the counterrevolutionary elements sometimes portray themselves to the workers as Marxists. However, according to documents and evidence, these groups not only are not Marxists but are in fact the enemies of true Marxism. The only aim of all of these groups is to fulfill the following goal: to stop work and production, to make the workers confront the government, to create a climate of dissatisfaction and disturbance, and ultimately to weaken the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, the government should take steps to improve the living conditions of the workers, but at the same time the workers should bear in mind that the important thing is to safeguard the gains of the revolution in the face of the plots of the counterrevolution and the agents of U.S. imperialism.